



**Committee of Advisors
to the
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STRENGTHENED FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FROM CANADA
AND U.S. TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THE GREAT LAKES**

WHEREAS, the ecological goods and services provided by the Great Lakes are critically important to the health and socioeconomic well-being of Canada and the U.S.;

WHEREAS, it is the respective national interests of Canada and the U.S. to protect and enhance this vibrant ecologic and economic resource;

WHEREAS, Canada and the U.S. have binational obligations to protect the Great Lakes, such as the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

WHEREAS, substantial funding is required from both Canada and the U.S. to deliver on their respective commitments to protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species, pollution, nutrient loading and algal blooms, climate change and other threats;

WHEREAS, funding is required from both Canada and the U.S. to deliver on their respective commitments to restore native species and their habitats, improve water quality and remediate contaminated sites;

WHEREAS, funding is required from both Canada and the U.S. to enhance our understanding of the Great Lakes through science, monitoring and assessment;

WHEREAS, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stated that renewing Canada's commitment to protect the Great Lakes will be a top priority;

WHEREAS, there are opportunities and a growing need for Canada to make a greater financial investment in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes to reflect Canada's promises to make the Great Lakes a top priority; and

WHEREAS, U.S. budget proposals have threatened to reduce or eliminate funding for critical Great Lakes programs and agencies, such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency, funding to prevent the spread of Asian Carp, USCOE funding for Great Lakes harbor maintenance and dredging, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the National Sea Grant Program, and to close or relocate the EPA's Great Lakes offices.

The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian and U.S. Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call upon Canada and U.S. to invest in Great Lakes protection at a level that reflects the ecological, social and economic value of the Great Lakes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canadian and U.S. Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission request that Canada increase its financial contributions to Great Lakes protection and restoration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canadian and U.S. Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission request that the U.S. maintain and enhance existing programs and financial contributions to Great Lakes protection and restoration.

Passed unanimously

19 May 2017

Canadian and U.S. Committee of Advisors